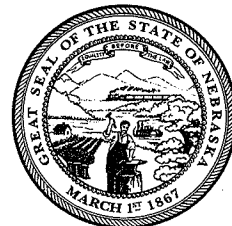


# STATE OF NEBRASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

**L. Tim Wagner**

*Director*



**Dave Heineman**  
*Governor*

## NEWS RELEASE

NR-0623

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Date: October 10, 2006

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning and Nebraska Insurance Director Tim Wagner announced ten insurance fraud charges were filed against James Almond III, 40, owner of Viking Glass in Omaha.

A joint investigation by the Department of Insurance Fraud Prevention Division and the Attorney General's office found Almond submitted fake invoices for auto glass repair and replacement to ten different property and casualty insurance companies.

"Consumers paid the price when their insurance companies were robbed," Bruning said. "Now, Mr. Almond will pay the price for his actions."

"The costs involved in paying fraudulent claims are often passed on directly to the consumer," Wagner said. "The goal of the Nebraska Department of Insurance is to keep consumer premiums low by fighting insurance fraud."

Between October 2003 and December 2005, Almond submitted 85 fake invoices on behalf of consumers to their insurance companies and third party administrators. In total, Almond defrauded insurance organizations of \$54,913.29.

Almond is charged with eight counts of insurance fraud involving \$1,500 or more and two counts of insurance fraud involving \$500 to \$1,499. Charges involving \$1,500 or more are class III felonies, each punishable by one to 20 years in prison and a \$25,000 fine. Insurance fraud charges involving \$500 to \$1,499 are class IV felonies, each punishable by up to 5 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

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